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Control: 703
Rec'd: August 3, 1954
9:02 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 146, August 2, 11 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG - 3 1954

NIACT

PASS DEFENSE.

Colonel Monzon came to my office at 9 p.m. in despondent mood. He said fighting at Roosevelt Hospital had ceased. Liberation forces had surrendered and been marched to station to entrain for Zacapa. He had suggested to Castillo way to handle base militar now that calm had returned was to weed out officers and replace them with reliable elements. Castillo had refused to accept this solution and was leaving city to go to Zacapa.

Monzon said Castillo had asked him and Major Olivato remain in Guatemala City at head of government. He did not think this would work but would do what Castillo asked, although it was only logical that Army would remove him, Monzon, when Castillo starts to fight Army.

Monzon stated at length he had done his utmost to make Junta work since San Salvador pact. He declared that Castillo had come to state of mind that he was so frightened he would place no confidence in what was told him in good faith. He asked for my suggestions.

I described efforts we had made tc bring tranquility to Guatemala and how we had cooperated with all members of Junta. We wished to avoid further bloodshed but it was now entirely Guatemalan matter. Anti-Communists were fighting anti-Communists.

Am now leaving for further interview with Castillo before his imminent departure for Zacapa in final effort to prevent further clash.

LMS:EGL/11

Note: Passed Defense 8/3/54, 9:46 a.m. MT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR EURIFOY
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